



CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PATTY JUDGE
LT. GOVERNOR

September 02, 2010

Director Nancy J. Richardson
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Director Richardson:

The safety of Iowans is my top priority. That is why my I-JOBS program included funding to the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) to repair or replace over fifty deficient or obsolete bridges on the state system and funding to counties and cities to assist them in the repair and upkeep of their local roads. That is also why I am always disheartened when there are fatalities on Iowa's roads. The motto of the Iowa DOT's Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan—One Death is One Too Many—certainly captures my sentiments.

As you know, I have been particularly concerned about the recent number of cross-median crashes and resultant injuries and fatalities along Iowa's interstates. You have provided me information about the complexity of crashes and the many factors involved in them. You have also shared information about the efforts of the Iowa DOT, the Iowa Department of Public Safety, and other highway safety stakeholders to improve highway safety through a mix of strategies focused on enhanced driver education and awareness, safety laws, enforcement, and roadway design and environment. I commend the DOT and its safety partners for these efforts to make Iowans safer as they travel our roads. Recent annual fatality data indicate that these efforts are making a difference.

You also provided me information about the DOT's recent efforts to install cable barrier in the medians of Iowa's interstates in locations where data indicate it may provide the most benefit to the traveling public. I understand that you have planned that installation work over a number of years, intending to complete the installations in 2012-2013.

The purpose of my letter to you is to confirm with you my desire that you work to accelerate the remaining cable barrier installation projects that are currently planned for Iowa's interstates. It is my understanding that you will be taking a proposed amendment to the current 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Plan to the Iowa Transportation Commission for consideration and approval in the next couple of months. I ask that you include acceleration of cable barrier installation in that amendment in order to move as

much of the remaining planned median cable barrier installation work into the 2011 program as is feasible.

I believe that completing these cable barrier projects as soon as possible will greatly enhance public safety by making Iowa's interstates more forgiving for those who travel them. Thank you for your continued efforts in enhancing the safety of the traveling public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chet Culver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chester J. Culver
Governor of Iowa